

ASA to Include Turfgrass Topics in Aug. 21-26 Meet

Turfgrass breeding and nitrogen nutrition of turfgrasses are to be discussed at the joint meeting of the American Society of Agronomy, the Crop Science Society of America, and the Soil Science Society of America, set for Aug. 21 to 26 at Oklahoma State University, Stillwater.

As part of a half-day program on plant breeding and genetics, Dr. J. A. Long, director of biochemical research for O. M. Scott & Sons, Marysville, Ohio, will talk on the effectiveness of breeding methods for developing improved bluegrass, st. Augustinegrass, red fescue, tall fescue, and ryegrass.

Nitrogen nutrition will be topic of a special symposium sponsored by the Crop Science Society of America, and directed by Dr. James B. Beard of Michigan State University. Speakers will include Dr. Coleman Y. Ward, agronomy department, Mississippi State University, who will discuss the forms in which grasses absorb nitrogen; Dr. Eliot C. Roberts, horticulture department, Iowa State University, who will talk on nitrogen effects on turfgrass growth and quality; Dr. R. E. Schmidt, agronomy department, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, who will describe environmental elements, such as light, oxygen, and temperature, affecting nitrogen utilization; and Dr. Norman Goetze, farm crops department, Oregon State U., talking on nitrogen carriers.

Contact the American Society of Agronomy, 677 S. Segoe Road, Madison, Wis. 53711, for more information on the meeting.

Md. Sod Program Grows

Many Maryland sod growers, who this fall will plant for certification, have already had their fields inspected, University of Maryland extension specialist, Joe Newcomer, reports. Growers seeking approval under the Maryland Sod Certification Program must use certified seed when planting such varieties as Merion bluegrass and Pennlawn red fescue, and should save a

sample of the seed as a control check. To obtain the certified tag, sod growers who use non-certified seed must have approval of the seed lot before planting. Seeds are checked for kind, origin, and contamination by other crop and weed seeds. Checking for Aug. and Sept. plantings is underway. Details on the state's certification program are available to WTT readers who write: Department of Agronomy, University of Maryland, College Park, Md.

Diamond Adds Arsonate Plant

Construction of a new multi-million pound capacity plant for production of its arsonate herbicides has been revealed by the Agricultural Chemicals Division of Diamond Alkali Co., Cleveland, Ohio.

The new facility is scheduled to produce Diamond's DSMA and MSMA, postemergent herbicides and Diamond's arsonate surfactant, Daconate. It is located at the company's Greens Bayou, Texas, operation.

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